

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Ben Reifel (Lone Feather), a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, was born September 19, 1906, in a log cabin near Parmelee, South Dakota, on the Rosebud Reservation; and,

*Whereas*, After high school Ben attended South Dakota State College, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture; and,

*Whereas*, Ben commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States (U.S.) Army Reserve and was ordered to active duty during World War II in 1942, serving until 1946 and attaining the rank of lieutenant colonel; and,

*Whereas*, In 1949, Harvard University awarded Ben a scholarship to study public administration, earning his master's degree in 1949 and his doctorate in 1952; and,

*Whereas*, Ben worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for 20 years, as a farm agent, field agent, tribal relations officer, and finally as superintendent of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota; and,

*Whereas*, After retiring from BIA, Ben ran for the U.S. House of Representatives from South Dakota's First District in 1960 and was elected by a substantial margin, making him the first person of Lakota descent to serve in Congress and the first Native American to represent South Dakota in Congress; and,

*Whereas*, During Ben's ten years in Congress, he was instrumental in locating the U.S. Geological Survey's Earth Resources Observation and Science Data Center in South Dakota, in gaining support to keep Ellsworth Air Force Base, and in securing the passage of legislation that created the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Arts Council; and,

*Whereas*, It is fitting and proper as Governor to recognize this dedicated public servant, war hero, and former U.S. Representative who worked diligently for the betterment of all South Dakotans and U.S. citizens:

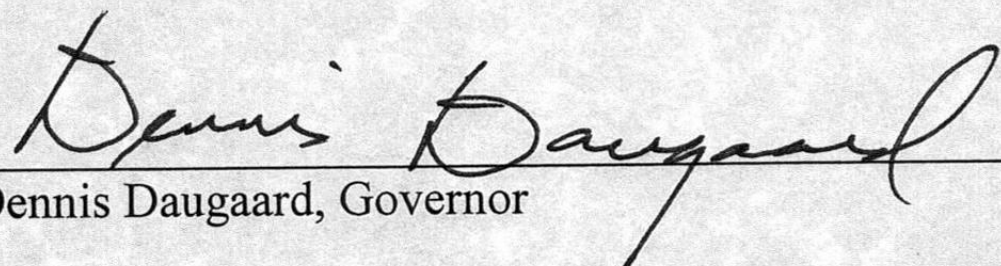
*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2017, as

### ***BEN REIFEL (LONE FEATHER) DAY***

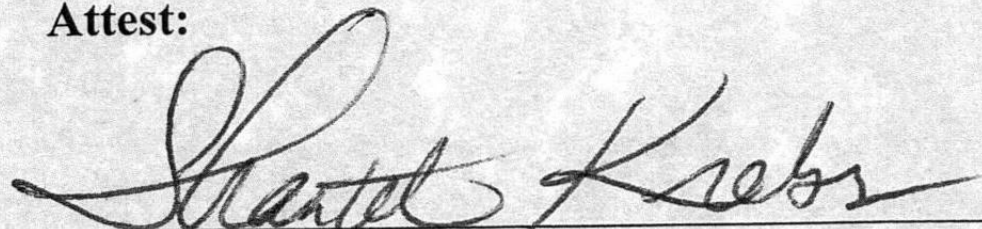
in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

  
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State